

CONFIDENTIAL

19 March 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

FROM : [] 25X1
Director of Central Reference

SUBJECT : Reconsideration of Request for Translation [] 25X1

REFERENCE : Chief, Translation Services Staff's Memo dated,
23 February 1982, Subject: Reduction in FBIS
Translation Support [] 25X1

1. Citing budgetary reductions imposed by the DDS&T Comptroller, the Chief of your Translation Services Staff has rejected an OCR request for a translation of a 1981 Who's Who on the top government, party, and military leaders in North Korea. In rejecting the request, he has proposed that we transfer \$7,500 in OCR funds if the translation is needed. I find this request difficult to understand since FBIS provides a service of common concern for Agency elements, not unlike what OCR provides to the rest of the Agency. This Office has never considered charging users for its service. [] 25X1

2. I would appreciate if you would reconsider the decision because of the importance and uniqueness of the book. The translation has much wider application than just use by OCR. We have determined that there is significant Agency and Intelligence Community interest in having it available in English. [] 25X1

3. There is only a limited amount of basic biographic data on North Korea. Its current leader, Kim Il-song, celebrates his 70th birthday on 15 April, and he has medical problems. In any post-Kim era, there is a strong possibility of power sharing among the North Korean leadership, as well as policy shifts or changes. [] 25X1

4. Nothing similar to the current Who's Who has been published in almost a decade. The 1973 Who's Who which was in Korean and never translated, could be used only by Korean language specialists. [] 25X1

5. OCR analysts have consulted various Agency and Community analysts about the value of the 1981 Who's Who. The OEAA analyst, who will shortly become the DDI Representative in Seoul, believes that a translation would be useful in his office, even though he and several other OEAA people speak

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Korean. The other offices that would find an English translation useful include DDO/EA, DIA/DB-2B2, State/EA, and NSA/T-5222. (NSA believes it could use 30 copies of any translation that it receives.) ☐

25X1

6. A translation of the North Korean Who's Who would represent a valuable Community resource and appears to be within the FBIS mission for supporting the Agency and the Community. If FBIS is curtailing its open literature exploitation, it is running against Congressional and Community pressures for more and better exploitation. ☐

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7. If the refusal of this request represents a basic change in FBIS services, I recommend we meet to discuss the impact of such a change. If FBIS has not changed its basic mission, I ask that you reconsider the decision or that analysts from these offices meet to discuss possible alternatives. ☐

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